

Message Text

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TAGS: PINT, CA

SUBJECT: PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE PARTY CAUCUS MEETING
IN HALIFAX

1. MORE THAN 60 FEDERAL PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE (PC) MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT ARRIVED IN HALIFAX ON JUNE 6, 1975 FOR WEEKEND MEETING OF THE PARTY S CAUCUS--THE THIRD IN A SERIES OF FIVE SUCH WEEKEND GATHERINGS ACROSS THE COUNTRY. MEETING WAS CLIMAXED BY FUND-RAISING DINNER ON JUNE 8 WHICH ATTENDED BY MORE THAN 700 OF PARTY FAITHFUL AT COST OF 125 DOLLARS A HEAD.

2. PRIMARY PURPOSE OF CAUCUS APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN TO BRIGHTEN IMAGE OF PC S IN ATLANTIC CANADA BY FOCUSING ON NUMBER OF PROBLEMS OF IMMEDIATE CONCERN IN THIS AREA E.G. TRANSPORTATION AND PORT FACILITIES, PROVINCIAL BENEFITS FROM DEVELOPMENT OF OFFSHORE MINERAL RESOURCES AND A 200 MILE FISHERIES ZONE.

3. SPEAKER AT THE DINNER WAS PC PREMIER OF ALBERTA, PETER LOUGHEED, WHO HAD BEEN INVITED TO GIVE ADDRESS ON ENERGY MATTERS BY NOVA SCOTIA OPPOSITION LEADER, JOHN BUCHANAN. LOUGHEED ADVOCATED THAT FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
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GIVE ATLANTIC PROVINCES 100 PERCENT OF ECONOMIC BENEFITS

FROM DEVELOPMENT OF ANY OFFSHORE MINERAL RESOURCES. THIS GREETED BY RESOUNDING APPLAUSE. LOUGHEED SAID OFFSHORE EXPLORATIONS BEING HINDERED BY BICKERING OVER OWNERSHIP JURISDICTION AND REVENUES SHARING. LOUGHEED ALSO SAID TOO MUCH POWER CONCENTRATED IN CENTRAL CANADA AT THE EXPENSE OF SLOWER-DEVELOPING REGIONS. HE ADVOCATED A NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY, RATHER THAN PRESENT PATCHWORK AD HOC PROCEDURE AND SAID ENERGY SHOULD BE A PART OF SUCH A NATIONAL FRAMEWORK. THE PREMIER SAID CANADA S RELATIVELY STABLE ECONOMY COULD BE WRECKED BY POOR HUSBANDRY OF ITS ENERGY RESOURCES. SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN ENERGY, HE SAID, COULD PLACE CANADA IN STRONGEST COMPETITIVE POSITION IN WESTERN WORLD. THE PREMIER CALLED FOR A NEW DEAL IN TRANSPORTATION WHICH WOULD HELP ELIMINATE REGIONAL DISPARITIES.

4. ALTHOUGH NOT OSTENSIBLY CAMPAIGNING FOR LEADERSHIP OF PARTY (I HAVE GOT A JOB TO DO IN ALBERTA), THE PREMIER DURING HIS SPEECH NOTED THAT IT WAS TEN YEARS TO THE DAY THAT HE HAD FIRST MET PARTY LEADER ROBERT STANFIELD IN HALIFAX. HE ALSO RECALLED THAT HIS MOTHER WAS A NATIVE OF HALIFAX. PERHAPS MY ROOTS ARE DEEPER HERE THAN I EVER REALLY KNEW.

5. SPECULATION IS THAT LEADERSHIP CONVENTION OF PARTY WILL TAKE PLACE ON WEEKEND OF FEBRUARY 21, 1976 ALTHOUGH NOVEMBER 1975 NOT COMPLETELY RULED OUT. JOHN LASCHINGER, NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF PARTY, SAID NOVEMBER TIMING NOT RULED OUT BUT THERE IS PRESSURE NOW FROM HOTELS - WE ARE DRIFTING TOWARDS FEBRUARY .)(LIBERAL PARTY HAS TENTATIVELY PLANNED ITS NATIONAL MEETING IN OTTAWA WEEKEND OF NOVEMBER 8.)
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